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not many miles from the Vermont line. The only known New Hampshire station is on a small knoll in a swamp in the town of Winchester, only twelve miles from Brattleboro, Vt. Surely some day this fern will be added to the Vermont list. The only other fern species common to New England and not yet reported from Vermont are *Asplenium montanum* Willd., *Cheilanthes lanosa* (Michx.) Walt., not found farther north than Connecticut, *Woodwardia areolata* (L.) Moore, found most frequently in damp woods, and *Asplenium pinnatifidum* Nutt.

Inasmuch as Vermont claims five or six species and varieties not found elsewhere in New England, the claim that Vermont is a fern lover's paradise would seem to hold true.

HANOVER, N. H.

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**Another station in central Vermont for *Dryopteris filix-mas* and for the new hybrid *filix-mas* × *marginalis***

F. E. CORNE

Late last August, 1911, quite by accident, I found a new habitat for *Dryopteris filix-mas* and for the new hybrid *D. filix-mas* × *marginalis*,\* in a hillside field near Barnard, Vermont. The altitude was between 1,700 and 1,800 ft. I visited some woods on the heights above the little Silver Lake House, where there were said to be limestone ledges and where I had hoped to find the little wallrue, *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, and other small rock-loving ferns for which I had so far searched in vain. I was disappointed, however, in finding any of these. I found no small ferns, but larger ones were there in abun-

\* Winslow, E. J. Am. Fern Jour. 1 : 22, 23. 30 D 1910.

dance. Of these the most rare that I noticed were *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Polystichum Braunii*, and *Dryopteris Goldiana*. One very beautiful frond of the Goldie fern, of a variety or form unknown to me, having unusually large and deeply lobed pinnules, was found growing at some distance from others of its kind. Unfortunately the rest of the foliage had in some way been destroyed, and only this one frond, a sterile one, remained.

Returning to the road through the field before mentioned, I stopped to dig up a few of the more abundant species for my fern bed at home. Among them was one which, not having at that time heard of the new hybrid, I took at first for a peculiar form of *Dryopteris marginalis*. True, its habit was upright and rigid, and the color not the usual bluish green. I fancied, indeed, that it had a faded look, perhaps from too great exposure to light, for it grew in the brightest sunshine, the hillside field facing southeast and being almost quite bare of trees. There was some difficulty in dislodging the thick rootstock from where it grew under a heavy pile of stones, but finally it was secured in good condition.

On my return to the hotel the large fern was temporarily planted in a box, and then at last I examined it carefully and found it to be no true *marginalis* but a hybrid.

Though not particularly graceful, it was nevertheless a fine, handsome plant. The fronds, about a dozen of them, were almost upright, growing in a circle, and bending only slightly outward. They were fully three feet high and ten or eleven inches broad. The color was a yellowish green on the upper part, somewhat lighter underneath. There were no sterile fronds, the upper half of each one being heavily fruited. The stipes, thick as a lead pencil near the rootstock, were rigid, very deeply grooved, and clothed with occasional brown scales. The veining seemed to resemble the *filix-mas*,

while the even rows of sporangia were so near the edges as to deceive me at first sight into thinking the plant a *marginalis*. Closer inspection, however, showed that they were not quite close to the margin and on some of the pinnules were halfway between margin and midvein.

I would have returned to that field for further investigation, but my stay at Barnard was drawing to a close and time failed me. Fortunately I recollected having seen other similar ferns scattered about, so my conscience was clear of having even inadvertently robbed the spot of a rare plant. About fifteen feet from where it grew I gathered some fronds of *D. filix-mas*.

On returning to Cambridge I took a frond of my find to the Gray Herbarium rooms at the Botanical Gardens, and Professor B. L. Robinson kindly looked into the matter for me and identified the fern as the new hybrid *D. filix-mas*  $\times$  *marginalis*. The new station is only a few miles from the first one at North Bridgewater. The hybrid proved not to be an evergreen but turned brown and withered at the first touch of frost.

This spring the great round heads of the croziers, fifteen of them, appeared above ground in April, all thickly covered with silky bright brown scales. Now at the end of May, six of these are well up and uncoiling rapidly, the tallest measuring already twenty-nine inches. Their stipes can scarcely be seen through the dense covering of scales, their color is a bright green and all of the fronds are fertile. Two more fronds are just starting on their upward journey, while the remaining seven seem very loth to leave their snug winter bed to brave the uncertain warmth of our May atmosphere.

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